



Call for Nominations: UO's Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards

[Equity, inclusion and diversity](#) are fundamental aspects of the values that we hold dear as a university community, and they were profoundly reflected in the life and work of [Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#) One of the ways that we demonstrate our commitment to these values is to recognize and celebrate faculty, staff and students on our campus who are employing these values to move the university towards creating a flourishing community. Broad engagement in nominating colleagues on our campus is an important part of our awards process, and we encourage you to review the criteria and submit the names of one or two colleagues to us by November 7, 2025.

What:

The Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr. Awards seek to recognize UO faculty, staff and students whose contributions demonstrate a commitment to making our UO community more welcoming and respectful for all, as modeled by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Faculty & Staff Awards

Classified staff, officers of administration and faculty members are eligible to be nominated. Individuals who have previously received the award are not eligible to be nominated.

Up to two nominees in each category below will receive a monetary award in recognition of their leadership and commitment to our university community.

1. **Exemplary Leadership.** Recognizes employees who have made extraordinary contributions to their unit, college, division and/or the university at large through their leadership and efforts toward embedding and/or promoting equity, accessibility, and inclusion in principles, policies and practices.

Examples: creating new opportunities for faculty, staff and students to meaningfully engage in the work of equity, inclusion and the mission of the university; modeling communication and engagements which improve understanding and dialogue across difference; mentorship or coaching which uplifts diverse populations of students, faculty, and/or staff; leadership of innovative recruitment and retention initiatives; replacing harmful and discriminatory practices with inclusive and loving norms.

2. **Institutional Transformation.** Recognizes employees who have worked diligently to transform university processes and policies in ways that either remove barriers

Division of Equity and Inclusion

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for faculty, staff and student achievement or create new pathways to achievement and flourishing.

Examples: leveraging climate survey data to enhance policies and workplace climate in units; redesigning student and employee experiences for persistence and achievement; using research, scholarship and creative activity to positively impact campus and community life; creating new pathways to enhance retention of underrepresented faculty, staff and/or students.

Inclusive Scholarship Award (faculty only)

Two faculty members (TTF, NTTF, Pro-Tem) will receive \$2,000 in research funding to recognize exceptional scholarship and creative activity that explores how differences—across cultural, social, ideological, economic, geographic, biological, and institutional dimensions—shape lived experiences and societal structures. It recognizes research that contributes to access and opportunity by examining the forces that sustain or challenge cohesion, opportunity, and resilience in communities, organizations, institutions and societies. The award welcomes work from a wide range of perspectives.

Graduate Student & Student Organization Awards

Graduate Student Leadership Award:

One graduate student will be awarded \$2,000 in research funds to recognize extraordinary leadership in embodying and/or promoting equity, accessibility, and inclusion within their unit, college, division and/or the university at large.

Student Organizations:

One undergraduate student organization will be awarded \$2,000 in programming funds to recognize exemplary commitment to social justice through student leadership, scholarship, service, community engagement and/or advocacy.

How:

Please submit your nominations **by 5:00 PM, Friday, November 7** via this [online application](#).

When:

The award celebration is scheduled for 11:30am on January 22, 2026 in the EMU Ballroom.

Contact information:

Questions about the event or nomination process may be directed to vpinclusion@uoregon.edu.